

REMARKS

Applicants note the filing of an Information Disclosure Statement of April 2, 2002 and a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement on August 9, 2002, and no copies of the PTO-1449's were returned with the outstanding Office Action. Applicants respectfully request that the information cited on the PTO-1449 forms be made of record herein and initialed copies be returned to the Applicants' undersigned attorney.

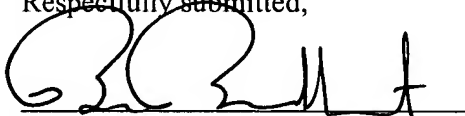
Restriction Requirement

Claims 1-73 are currently pending in the application and subject to a Restriction Requirement. Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, to prosecute the claims of Group II, claims 23-73, and provides herein a preliminary amendment.

Applicants having fully responded to the Examiner's Action and made the required election, early action on the merits of elected claims is now in order.

DATED this 8th day of December, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

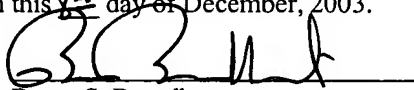


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CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 8th day of December, 2003.



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